

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03219 281402Z
ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1101
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 3219

DEPT. FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, KU
SUBJECT: BLOUNT BROS. INTEREST IN KUWAIT UNIVERSITY

REF: STATE 135451

1. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OFFICIAL, CONSULTANT ON UNIVERSITY PROJECT, CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF REPORT THAT GOK HAS SPLIT ORIGINAL TENDER INTO TWO PARTS AND RELEASED ONE PART (TENDER FOR HOUSING CONSTRUCTION) TO SHORT LIST OF LOCAL COMPANIES. CLOSING DATE FOR THESE KUWAITI COMPANIES TO BID ON HOUSING PART IS JUNE 21ST.

2. REMAINING PART OF ORIGINAL TENDER (MAIN UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS) IS STILL UNDER STUDY BY UNIVERSITY WITH NO DECISION LIKELY UNTIL 150 DAY STUDY PERIOD RUNS OUT ON ORIGINAL TENDER. GOK OFFICIALS ARE ANALYZING ORIGINAL BIDS IN DETAIL TO SEE WHAT PROBLEMS WERE AND HOW PRICE GOT SO FAR OUT OF LINE FROM THEIR EXPECTATIONS.

3. SENIOR ADVISOR TO VICE RECTOR FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AT UNIVERSITY TOLD US COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MADE A POLITICAL DECISION TO SPLIT THE TENDER BEFORE OPENING
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OF THE BIDS. HE WAS UNENTHUSIASTIC AT THE PROSPECT OF A MEETING WITH BLOUNT BROS. UNTIL SOME DECISION IS REACHED ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT RE-TENDERING MAIN BUILDINGS PORTION. HE FELT SUCH A MEETING MIGHT APPEAR IMPROPER DURING THE 150 DAY STUDY PERIOD.

4. COMMENT: RECENT COMPLAINTS FROM KUWAITI COMPANIES THAT THEY

ARE NOT GETTING ENOUGH GOVERNMENT BUSINESS PROBABLY
ACCOUNT FOR DECISION TO SPLIT THE TENDER.
SUTHERLAND

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NNN

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